



WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Division of Workforce Solutions
Bureau of Partner Services

TO: **Economic Support Supervisors
Economic Support Lead Workers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators
W-2 Agencies**

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Non W-2 W-2 CC

PRIORITY: HIGH

SUBJECT: CARES CHANGES FOR FOOD STAMP CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY

CROSS REFERENCE: Food Stamp Handbook (FSH) Appendix 01.03.01;
Operations Memos 99-77 and 02-20

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 24, 2002

PURPOSE

This memo notifies Food Stamp (FS) eligibility workers of CARES system enhancements that will automatically determine categorical eligibility for FS in most circumstances.

BACKGROUND

Effective October 25, 1999, categorical eligibility for FS was expanded to include any FS assistance groups where at least one group member receives TANF funded services, as long as no members of the food unit have lost eligibility due to an Intentional Program Violation (IPV) or FSET sanction. Previously eligibility workers have been required to change the "TANF Services" field on CARES screen ANBC to "Y" if a FS participant reported receiving TANF services such as Child Care Assistance, W2 payments or services, or Kinship Care. Since March 2002, local agencies have been receiving reports of cases that have not been coded categorically eligible for FS and are eligible for Child Care Assistance or W2.

NEW POLICY

In addition to FS IPV and FSET sanctions, categorical eligibility for FS must not be conferred to FS groups when any food unit member is disqualified from FS due to a drug felony sanction.

CARES CHANGES

Effective the evening of May 24, 2002, CARES will be programmed to assign categorical eligibility status to FS cases where at least one FS assistance group member is:

- Eligible for Child Care Assistance (CC) during the month
- Eligible for a W2 payment or non-payment placement during the month
- Receiving a W2 payment during the month
- A Kinship Care (KC) recipient according to ANBC.

This will include situations where the FS group member is eligible for W2 or CC under another case number (companion cases).

EXCEPTIONS

1. Categorical eligibility for FS will continue to be denied to FS groups when any food unit member has been disqualified due to a FS IPV or an FSET sanction.
2. Categorical eligibility for FS will not be conferred to FS groups when a food unit member has been disqualified due to a drug felony sanction.
3. Categorical eligibility will no longer be conferred to recipients of Interim Assistance or locally administered general relief programs. The GR field on screen ANBR will no longer be used by CARES to confer individual categorical eligibility for FS.

ANBC SCREEN

The TANF services switch on CARES screen ANBC will continue to be functional and must continue to be used by eligibility workers when they become aware that a FS participant is receiving any other TANF funded services as listed in FSH Appendix 01.03.01.

CARES will not automatically confer categorical eligibility for W2 companion cases where a W2 payment is issued in the month after W2 eligibility ends. The TANF services field must be switched to "Y" in these situations for the month that the W2 payment is issued.

In addition, if any FS group member is coded as receiving Kinship Care on screen ANBC, categorical eligibility for FS will be conferred to the FS group. CARES will first check for CC or W2 eligibility or payments, then check the TANF services and KC switches on ANBC to determine categorical eligibility for FS.

NOTE: The help screen for CARES screen ANBC will be updated to reflect this information.

CONTACT

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Note: Email contacts are preferred. Thank you.